

# Helio graph

123rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Winter 2004

## More Arizona Guardsmen Alerted for Duty

by Spc. Crystal Reidy

Mobilization of reserve forces continued in mid-December with the activation/alerting of five more Arizona Army National Guard units. To date, 18 units have been activated/deployed since the beginning of operations Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle and Iraqi Freedom. Five units have returned.

Soldiers from the 3666<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Company, 160<sup>th</sup> Finance Detachment, 258<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company, 257<sup>th</sup> Engineer Detachment and the 852<sup>nd</sup> Rear Area Operation Center (RAOC) received notice of possible deployment in mid-December to support operation Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle for the next 18 months.

Family and friends gathered to say good bye, joined by Governor Janet Napolitano and Maj. Gen. David P. Rataczak. The Governor wished the soldiers

a safe return home and presented them with a 60 minute AT&T phone card.

"It feels good that my family, friends and the Governor got up so early in the morning to see me off," said Spc. Eleuterio A. Garcia.

"Other soldiers need relief, so this is a good thing. I will be going to help my brothers," said Sgt. Emanuel G. Elzie.

In the month leading up to deployment, each soldier prepared in different ways. They had to train for their upcoming mission and at the same time prepare to be gone from their families and civilian jobs for a year and a half.

"I did a lot of paperwork and made sure my

kids were taken care of," said Cpl. Tina L. Hawkins.

Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Rudy V. Soto is depending on a strong faith in God to carry him through the mission. "Faith is the glue in the fabric of life and it will help me stay the course," he said.

Some soldiers were feeling nervous, numb and excited about being deployed to Iraq. Sgt. Andy Stewart says he felt relieved when he heard he was called up. "I felt relieved because now the uncertainty was over and I could start making plans."

It was hard for soldiers to say goodbye but the overall feeling was pride. These soldiers are highly trained and will meet the challenge with great success. As 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Kathleen Sprinkle says about the deployment, "It's a good thing and we're looking forward to it."



## It's Official! Reservists Granted Unlimited Commissary Privileges



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# Four-Deuce Returns from the ‘Other’ Desert

by Cpt. Bruce Arnoldussen

Approximately 120 members of the Tucson-based 2222<sup>nd</sup> Transportation Company, returned safely to Tucson’s Silverlake armory on Saturday, December 13, 2003. The deployment to Iraq began in April 2003 and also involved detachments from Nogales and Douglas.

While deployed in Iraq, the mission of the 2222<sup>nd</sup> was to transport bulk petroleum products and water by truck. Assigned to the 49<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Group during their Iraqi operations, the 2222<sup>nd</sup> hauled 12 million gallons of JP8 fuel, 637,000 gallons of MOGAS fuel, and 625,000 gallons of water.

“The unit was a very cohesive group,” said Capt. Chad Abts, company commander. “The soldiers did a fabulous job and had one of the highest readiness ratings.” Abts stated that because the unit maintained such a high readiness rating, missions were accomplished without any major injuries.

“We stuck together and needed each other to survive,” says Spc. Jason D. Cormona, form Tucson. “Everyday was a dangerous day requiring being on the constant look out for the enemy.”



**Crowds, smiles and lots of hugs are the rule of the day as the 2222<sup>nd</sup> Transportation Company returns from Operation Iraqi Freedom** (photos by Staff Sgt. Ernie Paquette)



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# Arizona Mentoring Kazakhstan Through State Partnership Program

by Maj. William Willhoite

In November 2003, the Arizona National Guard sponsored a State Partnership Program exchange between the Republic of Kazakhstan's Agency for Emergency Response (AES) and the Arizona Division of Emergency Management (ADEM). This exchange allowed the members of the AES to observe a bi-national emergency response exercise which was held in the border communities of Nogales, Ariz. and Nogales, Mexico.

The exercise involved the initial response and post incident response and mitigation to a Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) terrorism incident. The exercise began with the detonation of an improvised explosive device which damaged a nearby hazardous material (HAZMAT) tanker truck at the Mariposa Port of Entry (POE) in Nogales, Ariz. The simulated explosion and the HAZMAT release created a mass casualty/fatality and a hazardous material incident.

The Kazakhstan AES representatives, from the Almaty City Fire Services and Civil Defense Regiment, had the opportunity to observe the actions of first responders to the incident, watch the incident expand into a mass casualty incident and discuss procedures with local and state level emergency response personnel as the event evolved. The delegation also spoke with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other law enforcement personnel on the conduct of forensic evidence recovery in the wake of a mass casualty incident.

The post incident response and mitigation exercise, which is how a community responds in covering from a severe incident, was eye opening to the Kazakhstan delegation. The AES responds to emergency situations, but is not involved in the long range recovery efforts of communities affected by the emergency.

The Kazakhstan delegation also had the opportunity to meet with emergency responders

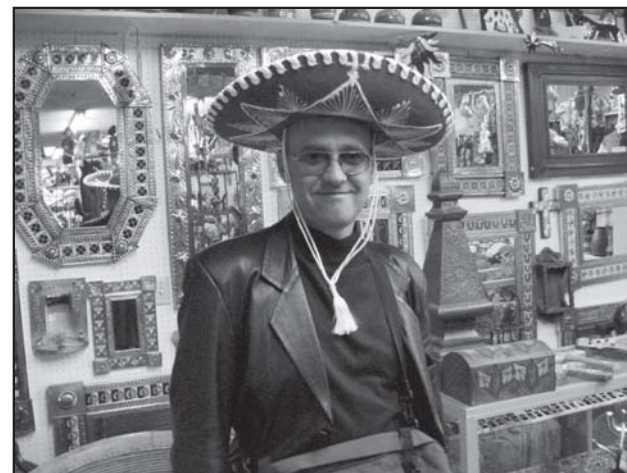


**Kazakhstan delegates receive a briefing about fire equipment and emergency response procedures. During exchange visits, Kazakhstani officials acquire large amounts of information on subjects ranging from emergency response to city planning. (photo by Maj. William Willhoite)**

from the Arizona Division of Emergency Management, the Arizona National Guard's 91<sup>st</sup> Civil Support Team and the Tempe Fire Department. During these meetings, they discussed having search and rescue teams attend international rescue meetings in Kazakhstan during the summer of 2004.

In December 2003, National Guard Bureau hosted a delegation from the Kazakhstan Ministry of Defense's Mobilization and Reserve Officer division. This delegation received briefings from the Joint staff, Army and Air Force staff on the operation of the National Guard. This exchange is important because Kazakhstan is interested in forming a reserve force very similar to our National Guard, a reserve force which would be under the command and control of their regional governors.

This delegation had the opportunity to visit the National Guard Museum, where they learned the history of the National Guard from the first muster in 1663, to the deployment of Guardsmen for



**Delegates took time to experience the flavor of shops in Mexico. (photo by Maj. William Willhoite)**

Operation Iraqi Freedom. They also visited the Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Memorial and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

The Arizona National Guard has been involved with the Republic of Kazakhstan since 1995, when the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (DEMA) welcomed a delegation from Kazakhstan's Committee for Emergency Situations. The scope of this exchange was to explore new ways of managing disasters and improving emergency management techniques. In 1996, a reciprocal trip was made to Kazakhstan with an equally diverse team of military and state emergency planners. In November of 1997, Arizona participated in an historic nation-to-nation signing of a Protocol Agreement with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the State Committee of Emergencies for the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Since that time, Arizona and Kazakhstan have participated in over twenty five different military to military events and civil to military exchanges. This includes Arizona hosting the 2001 International Workshop for Emergency Response, where over 500 participants from Arizona worked with representatives from Kazakhstan and other Central Asian countries.



**Delegates from Kazakhstan discuss ideas and thoughts after one of the many presentations given by DEMA during the State Partnership Program visit. (photo by Maj. William Willhoite)**



# Rapid Fire

## Retired Pay Changing For the Better

Concurrent receipt of both retired pay and Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) disability compensation has become a reality.

Signed by President Bush on November 24, 2003, Public Law 108-136 authorizes a 10-year, phased elimination of the DVA disability offset to retired pay.

This will affect members with non-disability retirements, without regard to years of service.

Those who retired as a result of a service-related disability are also eligible. These members must have at least 20 years of qualifying service.

In all cases, the retiree must be rated at least 50% disabled by the DVA.

This legislation also expands the field of eligibility for Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) to include retirees with 20 years who have a combined disability rating of less than 60%, but repeals the authority for Special Compensation for Severely Disabled (SCSD).

SCSD recipients will be the first to see increases to their retired pay effective January 1, 2004, for the payment dated February 2, 2004.

Implementation of the full legislation is complex and is not possible by January 2004.

DFAS is working closely with the DVA to implement this legislation and issue the payments to all eligible retirees as soon as possible.

Although full implementation may take several months, payments will include monies that are due retroactive to January 1, 2004.

Updates will be posted to the MyPay website as they become available.

For additional information, please see the official retiree newsletter for your branch of service, as well as articles in other retiree publications.

## Reserves Receive Unlimited Commissary Privileges

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, Dec. 3, 2003) — The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 granted Army Reserve and National Guard members, along with their families, unlimited access to commissaries.

Guard and Reserve members were authorized only 24 commissary shopping days per calendar year until the president signed the National Defense Authorization Act Nov. 24. The bill contained provisions eliminating the restrictions. Commissaries have immediately adopted the new provisions, which means Guard and Reserve members will no longer have to present a Commissary Privilege Card when they shop.

"Instructions have gone out to all continental U.S. stores informing them that reservists now have unlimited shopping and telling store managers how to welcome members of the National Guard and Reserve to the full use of the commissary benefit," said Patrick Nixon, deputy director of the Defense Commissary Agency. "Commissary shoppers will begin to see banners saying 'Welcome Guard and Reserve to Full Time Savings,' along with other events recognizing these new full-time shoppers."

Nixon noted that special thanks should go to Charles Abell, principal deputy under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness. Abell acted immediately to provide interim authority for the Reserve component to have full-time commissary shopping just in time to take advantage of holiday savings.

Unlimited commissary benefits have been extended to:

— Members of the Ready Reserve (which includes members of the Selected Reserve, Individual Ready Reserve and National Guard) and members of the Retired Reserve who possess a Uniformed Services Identification Card.

— Former reserve-component members eligible for retired pay at age 60 but who have not yet attained the age of 60 and who possess a Department of Defense Civilian Identification Card.

— Dependents of the members described above who have a Uniformed Services Identification Card or who have a distinct identification card used as an authorization card for benefits and privileges administered by the Uniformed Services.

*Reprinted from DefenseLink.com*

## New Relief Act Provisions Protect Service Members

by Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample, USA  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7, 2004 — A new law replacing the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940 will provide military personnel — especially those deployed or called to active duty — greater protections to handle their personal financial and legal obligations, Defense Department officials said here.

President Bush signed the Service Members' Civil Relief Act into law Dec. 19.

"The focus of the SCRA is the same as under the SSCRA: to provide protections to service members who have difficulty meeting their personal financial and legal obligations because of their military service," said Air Force Lt. Col. Patrick Lindemann, deputy director for legal policy in DoD's Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. "The SCRA is a significant law, because it clarifies and updates the provisions that existed in the SSCRA, while adding some additional protections," he said.

"Service members on long-term deployments or called to active duty should not have to worry about their families in their absence being evicted from their quarters without sufficient legal protections," he continued, "or that they are paying on a leased car or apartment that they can't use, or about civil legal proceedings they can't attend because of their deployment."

"These are some of the situations the SCRA covers so that service members are able to devote their energies to the military mission and the defense needs of the nation, and not on civil matters waiting for them at home," he added.

What Lindemann called "a significant change" added in the SCRA is an automatic 90-day stay of civil proceedings upon application by the service member. This applies to all judicial and administrative hearings. In the past, according to Lindemann, stays were discretionary with the courts.

*Reprinted from DefenseLink*

# 158th Finance Bn Assists with School Beautification

On a warm, sunny day in May 2003, nine members of the 158<sup>th</sup> Finance Battalion and the 159<sup>th</sup> Finance Detachment traded their desks and computers for rakes, shovels and wheelbarrows.

Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Art J. Branding, 158<sup>th</sup> Readiness NCO and member of the West Valley's Horizon School PTA, took nine volunteers to help with landscaping at the school.

"I knew the school needed some help," said Branding. "I worked with the commander's and first sergeants and here we are."

Soldiers scurried about with wheelbarrows of dirt and gravel while other soldiers planted flowers, picked up trash and planted grass. School vol-

unteers and soldiers worked side-by-side. Dust wafted in the air in the wake of brooms and shovels moving, spreading and compacting dirt.

"It's a nice break from our normal duties," said Private 1<sup>st</sup> Class Donna R. Cly. Cpl. Sam Perez echoed Cly, adding, "I like it because its fun being out in the community, helping and making a difference."

"Everyone on the board was very positive about having National Guard help," said Susan Hack, head of the Horizon School Beautification Board.

"The Guard has an obligation to help in the community," said 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Ward Ruck. "The soldiers did a great job and their attitude was great."



Soldiers of the 158th Finance Battalion load wheel barrows with gravel. (photo by Staff Sgt. Marty Hammonds)



Pvt. 1st Class Donna Cly, 158th HHD, spreads rocks in the courtyard. (photo by Sgt. Willie Jones)



Pvt. 1st Class Candance Shelton, HHD, 158th Fin. Bn., assists in spreading gravel in a large rock bed. (photo by Staff Sgt. Marty Hammonds)



Pvt. 1st Class Alicia Escarraga, HHD, 158th Fin. Bn., uses a rake to even out a rock bed. (photo by Sgt. Willie Jones)

## AZ JTF Goes North Joint Task Force Conducts First Field Exercise

by Staff Sergeant Seth Israel, AZ JTF Public Affairs

Phoenix, AZ – On October 27, 2003, the Arizona National Guard made history as both Air and Army Guard members departed HQ facilities and deployed to Camp Navajo, Bellmont, AZ. This deployment was the first field exercise as the newly formed Arizona Joint Task Force (JTF).

In less than nine months, the JTF went from being a mandated doctrine to a fully staffed and operational JTF. Members are from both Air and Army National Guard services and are staffed with enlisted and officer personnel.

The formation of the JTF on 1 Feb 2003 was one of the most significant events affecting the headquarters for Arizona as it truly began the transformation of the Arizona National Guard to fully meet it's many new responsibilities

brought on since the onset of the Global War on Terrorism.

Most of calendar year 2003 was focused on learning JTF doctrine, establishing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and validating the Operation Plan (OPLAN). Time finally arrived to evaluate the yearlong efforts of the JTF via an official exercise. "Operation Copper Dome", as it became officially known, became the JTF's training year highlight for the subordinate Directorates.

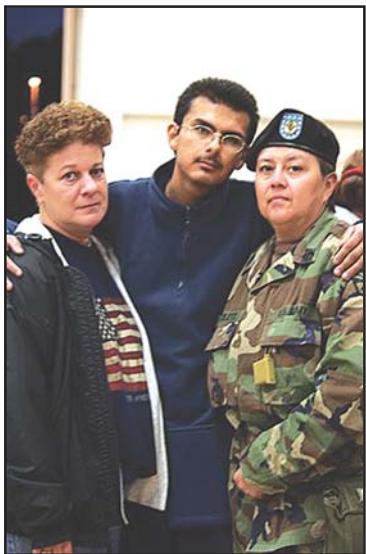
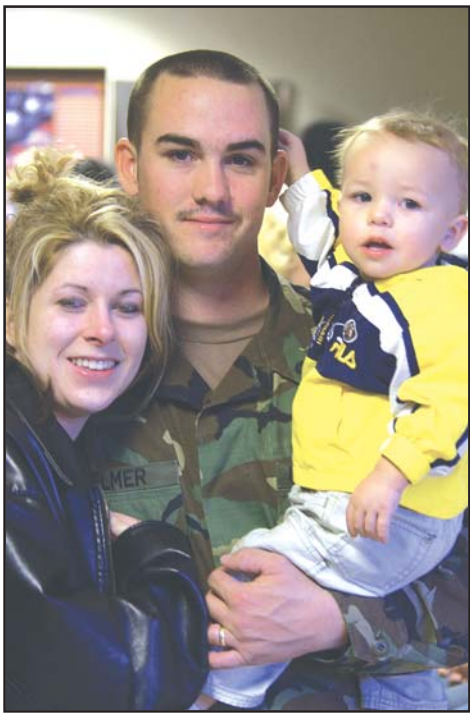
During the exercise, a Joint Operations Center (JOC) was established and manned 24 hours a day. The JOC provided taskings to the various Directorates. A Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) scenario, during the war-gaming exercise, enabled the JOC to strain the capabilities of each

Directorate's resources. Only then could JTF members fully examine their strengths and weaknesses.

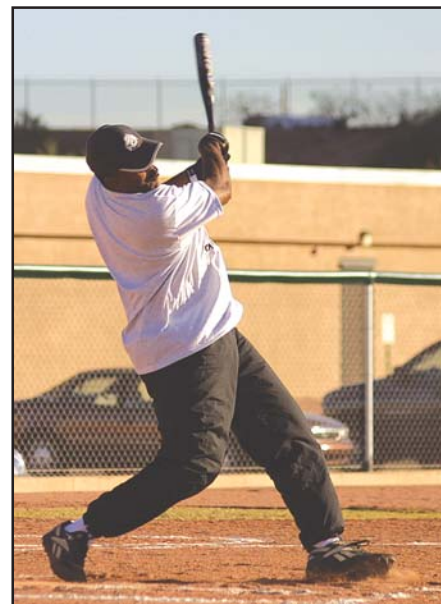
A lot was learned during the seven-day deployment. JTF members had gained a higher level of understanding about JTF doctrine and members appreciated how their roles impacted the JTF mission. Brig. Gen. Bodin, the JTF Commander, indicated "the exercise fulfilled a dual requirement of validating the OPLAN developed by the JTF, and assessing the training readiness of the Joint Staff."

Based on the knowledge gained during the exercise, JTF members are making adjustments to their OPLAN. The OPLAN is a constantly evolving document and is extremely valuable to the success of the Joint Force Headquarters and the state of Arizona.

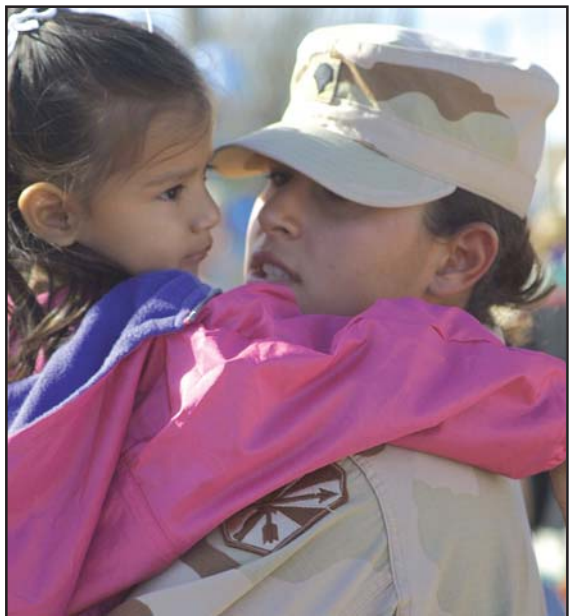
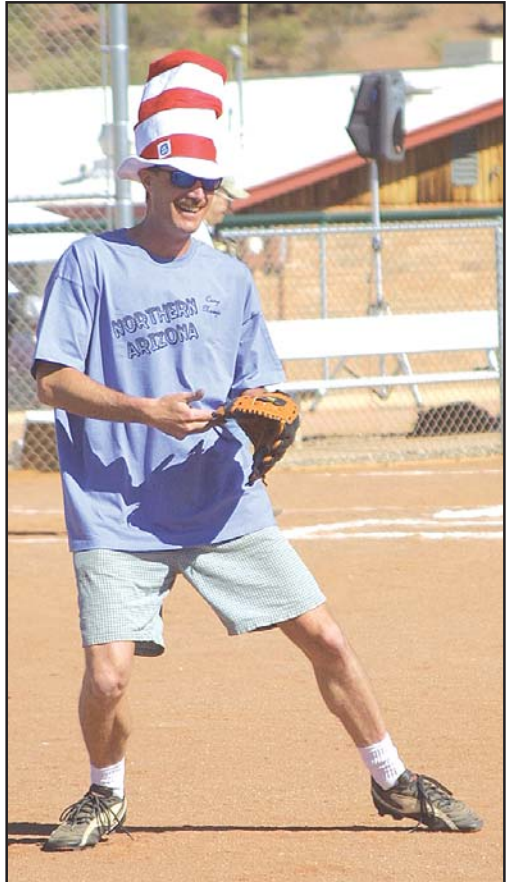
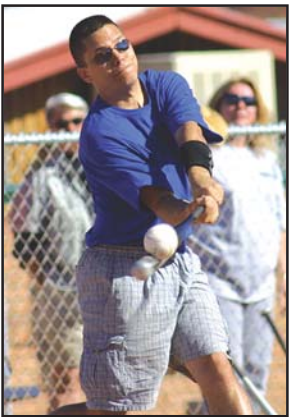




# The Faces and Emotions of the Guard Family









# New Legislation Helps Military With Tax Burden

by Col. Robert F. Hockensmith

November 11, 2003 was an important day for Veterans, both present and past. President Bush signed into act “*The military Tax Relief Act of 2003*” (“*The Act*”).

The following is a short list of the provisions of the Tax Relief Act:

- Exclusion from Gain from the sale of a principal residence, by Military and Foreign Service Personnel
- Exclusion of Military Death Gratuity Payments
- Exclusion of amounts received under Military Housing Assistance Program
- Expansion of Combat Zone Filing Rules, to include Contingency Operations
- Clarification of Treatment of Childcare Subsidies
- Above the Line Deduction for Overnight Travel Expenses of National Guard and Reserve Members

These are not all of the provisions, only highlights. A more detailed explanation is as follows:

1. **Exclusion from Gain from Sale of principal residence, by Military and Foreign Service Personnel** – As you know, Federal Law permits a taxpayer to exclude up to \$250,000 (\$500,000 if married filing jointly) on the Gain of a sale or exchange, of a personal residence.

To be eligible for the exclusion, the taxpayer must have owned and used the residence as a principal residence for at least two of the five years ending on the sale or exchange.

Until now, the law did not afford any relief to Military Members who were required to move in the course of Active Duty. “*The Act*” corrects this situation. The exclusion permits Military Personnel to make an election to suspend for a maximum of ten years, the running of the five-year period, while they are away on Active Duty.

For example: A Military Officer has lived in his home for one year, and is called to Active Duty in the Middle East for four years. Following the completion of the Active Duty, the Officer comes home and lives in his home for a year, and then sales the home. If the Office has made the election to suspend the running of the five-year period while away on Active Duty, he then qualifies for the full Exclusion of Gain Realized on the sale of his residence.

More importantly, this provision operates retroactive to May 7, 1997. Therefore, Military

Personnel who have sold a residence since that date may retroactively qualify for the exclusion, and “*The Act*” gives them one year, from November 11, 2003, to claim an otherwise time barred refund, or credit resulting from this change.

Since there is only a one-year window, I would advise you to act quickly and see a tax advisor, if this provision might apply to you.

2. **Exclusion of Military Death Gratuity Payments**- Internal Revenue Code Section 134 states that Death Gratuity Benefits are only excludable from income up to amount payable, as of September 9, 1986. (Which is only \$3,000). The Death Gratuity Benefit was increased to \$6,000 in 1991, but the exclusion from income from such benefits was never adjusted.

“*The Act*” increases the amount to \$12,000 and provides an exclusion for all Death Gratuity Payments. This change applies for deaths occurring after September 10, 2001. Thus taxpayers who receive Death Gratuities in excess of \$3,000 and who have already filed tax returns will want to file an amended return to claim the additional tax-free benefit.

3. **Exclusion of amounts received under a Military Housing Assistance Program** - The DOD makes payments to the Members of the Armed Services, to offset diminishing house values, due to military base realignment or closure.

For example: If a house near a base was worth \$180,000 before a base closure and only \$100,000 after a closure, DOD may provide the owner with a payment to offset most of the \$80,000 diminished value. Under prior law, those amounts were taxable as income. “*The Act*” changes this so that these payments are not included in income, effective November 11, 2003.

4. **Exclusion of Combat Zone Filing Rules to include Contingency Operations** – Military Personnel in a Combat Zone receive an extended period of time for filing Federal Tax Returns. Until now, this exception has not been extended to Contingency Operations, only those in Combat Zones. The Act provides a similar filing extension to Military Personnel assigned to Contingency Operations designated by the Secretary of Defense.

5. **Clarification of Treatment of Childcare Subsidies** – Internal Revenue Code

Section 129 states that employees generally may exclude from taxable income, up to \$5,000, of employer provided childcare. The military provides childcare benefits to its employees. A separate provision (Code Section 134) excludes from income, benefits provided to members to the Uniformed Services. However, it was unclear whether childcare benefits were intended to be in that provision. “*The Act*” clarifies that childcare benefits provided to military personnel **ARE** excludable to income, for the years beginning after 2003.

6. **Above the Line Deduction for Overnight Travel Expenses of National Guard and Reserve Members** - Reservists are National Guard Personnel who travel periodically for duty. They incur significant Travel Expenses, some of which are not reimbursed by the military. Under Internal Revenue Code Section 67, those un-reimbursed expenses may be deducted as an Itemized Deduction on Schedule A, as long as they exceed 2% of your Adjusted Gross Income.

As such, most National Guard and Reservists who did not itemize were not able to deduct any portion of the expenses that were incurred for travel purposes. Congress however believed that all National Guard and Reserve Members incurring un-reimbursed, overnight expenses should be able to deduct these expenses from their income, not just those who itemize their deductions.

Accordingly, “*The Act*” provides an **Above the Line Deduction** for the overnight meals, transportation, and lodging expenses of National Guard and Reserve Members who travel more than 100 miles away from home and stay overnight.

The amount of the expenses that may be deducted may not exceed the general Federal Government per Diem rate for that locale. This provision is effective, with respect to amounts paid or incurred in 2003 and beyond.

A conference with your tax preparer or Financial Planner may be in order, to see if these rules apply to you.

*Col. Robert F. Hockensmith is a Certified Public Accountant, Certified Financial Planner™, and holds an MBA and Master of Science in Economics, is an Enrolled Agent, and a Personal Financial Specialist.*



# Army Guardsmen Go The Distance

story by Staff Sgt. Tim Watts

Do you like to run longer distances than the two-mile event of the Army Physical Fitness Test? Have you already completed a marathon, or are you planning on running one soon? Well, the Arizona National Guard Marathon Team may be looking for you.

“Our goal next year is to find at least one new runner,” said Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Chase Duarte. Duarte, 36, is the state team coordinator and is an Electronics Mechanics Supervisor at the Western Army Aviation Training Site (WAATS) Maintenance Battalion in Marana.

The other members of the 2003 team include Staff Sgt. Rosana Carbajal, 26, Training NCO, 3666<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Battalion, Phoenix; Sgt. Robert Schnell, 32, Signal Support Systems Specialist, HHSB, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 180<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery, Phoenix; and Sgt. Josef Gonzaga, 33, Electronics Communications Technician, CSMS, Phoenix.

“Another goal for the state team is to place in the top five as a team at the national trials in May, which allows us to compete in other national events,” Duarte said. “We came real close this year.” The state team finished 6<sup>th</sup> out of 50 state and four territorial teams.

Duarte and Schnell earned spots on the National Guard Marathon Team, which is made up of the nation’s top Army and Air Guard runners. The national team is selected annually at the National Guard Bureau Marathon Trials held each May in Lincoln, Neb., and competes throughout the year in civilian and military races across America. Duarte has made the national team 12 consecutive years, while Schnell is in his 4<sup>th</sup> year.

Duarte ran track and cross-country in high school, then served four years in the Marine Corps before starting a full-time career with the National Guard. “I started smoking cigarettes in the Marine Corps,” said Duarte. “In 1991 I quit smoking one day, went out the next day and ran a mile, and just started adding longer runs.” He ran his first marathon eight months later.

In his 12th consecutive year on the national team, Duarte ran with them in a half marathon event in San Diego August 17, finishing 36<sup>th</sup> out of almost 6,000 runners. He has run almost 30 half marathons and 30 marathons and has added ultra events to his personal schedule, including 50-mile and 50-kilometer races.

Schnell also ran the San Diego half marathon, finishing 38<sup>th</sup>, 23 seconds behind Duarte. He

then ran with the national team in the Chicago Half Marathon September 7, finishing 24<sup>th</sup> out of 5,658 runners. “The team really did well,” he said. “Six out of the top 25 finishers were from the National Guard team.”

He ran track and cross-country in high school and college, competing as a scholarship athlete at Northern Michigan University in Marquette, Michigan. He made the Fort Bragg running team while serving as an artilleryman in the 18<sup>th</sup> Airborne Corps. His civilian job is with Weiserlock in Tucson, where he works in information systems.

“My wife is a runner, too. She’s run half marathons and full marathons,” Schnell said. “She and our three children traveled to San Diego in August to see me run.” Schnell says he gets a lot of support from his family. His two oldest children are four and six years old and they’ve run some one and two-mile events. “The only thing I ever say to them is once they start, they have to finish,” says Schnell.

Schnell says the Arizona National Guard marathon program is well organized. “(Duarte) is good, gets our travel and orders squared away, and makes other arrangements for us. The marathon program is better organized here than in the Michigan Guard. I also get great support from my unit,” he said.

Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Rudy Soto, is responsible for getting Sgt. Josef Gonzaga involved in distance running. “He challenged me about four years ago, and kept on challenging me,” Gonzaga said. “So I started running some 10K’s, and about a year later ran my first marathon.”

Gonzaga has nine marathons under his belt and is in his third year on the state team. “I like being on the team because it’s a privilege to represent your state in these races,” said Gonzaga.

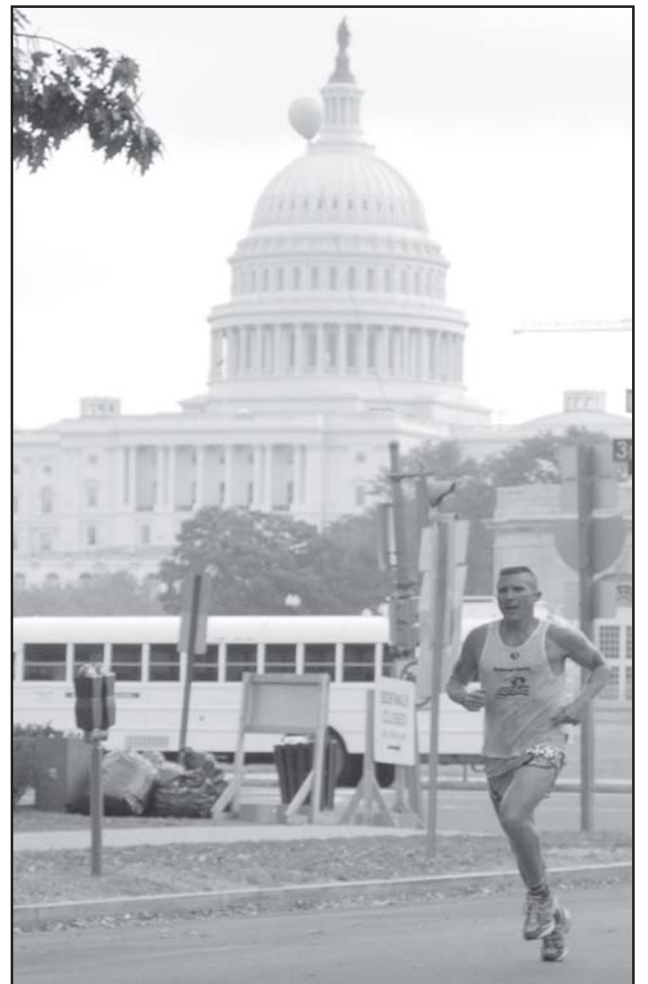
Staff Sgt. Rosana Carbajal is the youngest member of the state team and started running longer distances only two years ago at a 5K race at South Mountain. “It was my first road race, and I had so much fun I decided right after the race I would run a marathon,” she said. “I ran my first marathon five months later in Honolulu.”

She ran the Army 10-Miler October 20, 2002, with 11,903 other finishers. She then made the state marathon team and competed in the national trials in May in Nebraska, winning

an age group award in the 25-29 division. “It was exciting to run with the Arizona team,” Carbajal said. “My goal now is to make the national team this coming May.” She plans to swim, bike, and run in a sprint triathlon in Glendale in October, and in March 2004 she will run in the Crown King Scramble 50K.

Like the other members of the team, she is also training for the Rock ‘n’ Roll Arizona Marathon in Phoenix in January, 2004, but for Carbajal it will be a family affair. “Two of my brothers will run, too,” she said. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Armando Carbajal, 29, Battery B, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 180<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery, Phoenix, will be running his first road race of any kind. Staff Sgt. George Carbajal, 31, HQ STARC, Phoenix, has run one half marathon. “They’re tough. They’ll make it.”

The goal of the Arizona National Guard Marathon Team is to set an example through a high level of physical fitness and to enlist and retain quality, physically fit soldiers. If you are interested or know of anyone who may be interested in running on the 2004 team, contact Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Duarte, the team coordinator, at [chase.duarte@az.ngb.army.mil](mailto:chase.duarte@az.ngb.army.mil) or work phone 520-616-5953.



**Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Chase Duarte, Electronic Mechanics Supervisor at the WAATS Maintenance Battalion in Marana, maintains a steady pace at the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, D. C.**



# Fort Tuthill Museum Wants YOU

story by Staff Sgt. Tim Watts

The Fort Tuthill Military History Museum will soon be a reality, according to Jim Warbasse, one of the museum directors. “We hope to be open starting in November, 2003,” he said.

Located approximately four miles south of Flagstaff on the Coconino County Fairgrounds, Fort Tuthill was considered one of the finest National Guard training facilities in the country, Warbasse said.

The museum will trace the history of the 158<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment of the Arizona National Guard from its organization in 1865 as the First Arizona Volunteer Infantry to retirement of the regimental colors in 1967. Fort Tuthill played a major role in the history of the 158th, serving as the regiment’s annual field training site during parts of three decades.

Operating as the 158<sup>th</sup> Regimental Combat Team in World War II, the “Bushmasters” compiled one of the outstanding combat records

of the war. General Douglas McArthur paid tribute to the 158<sup>th</sup> when he said, “No greater fighting combat team has ever deployed for battle.”

The museum is housed in the original regimental headquarters building and will serve as a link with Arizona’s proud National Guard heritage and tradition, Warbasse said.

However, the lifeblood of the museum will depend upon volunteers. “Depending on how many volunteer staff we get, we hope to have the museum open at least two days per week and during fairground activities,” he said. “If we can locate sufficient volunteer staff, we could be open five or six days a week.”

Although military experience would be helpful, it is not necessary, said Warbasse. If you would like to serve as a staff volunteer, contact Jim Warbasse at (602) 944-0359 (home) or (602) 440-3300. You can access

the museum web site at [www.forttuthill.org](http://www.forttuthill.org), or send correspondence to Fort Tuthill Military Museum, 8236 North 15<sup>th</sup> Drive, Phoenix, Arizona 85021.

The fort was named after General Alexander M. Tuthill, grandfather to Jim Warbasse. Often referred to as “The Father of the Arizona National Guard,” Tuthill was one of the youngest brigade commanders in World War I and one of a very few National Guard officers selected for promotion to Brigadier General during the war. As a major general he commanded the 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division before serving as Adjutant General of the Arizona National Guard from 1936-1952.

In civilian life he served as a distinguished and innovative surgeon, credited with pioneering the use of metal plates in bone surgery. He and General Leonard Wood were the only general officers in World War I commanding infantry units who were also physicians.

## Raffle Benefits Family Support Group

story and photos by Spc. Crystal Reidy

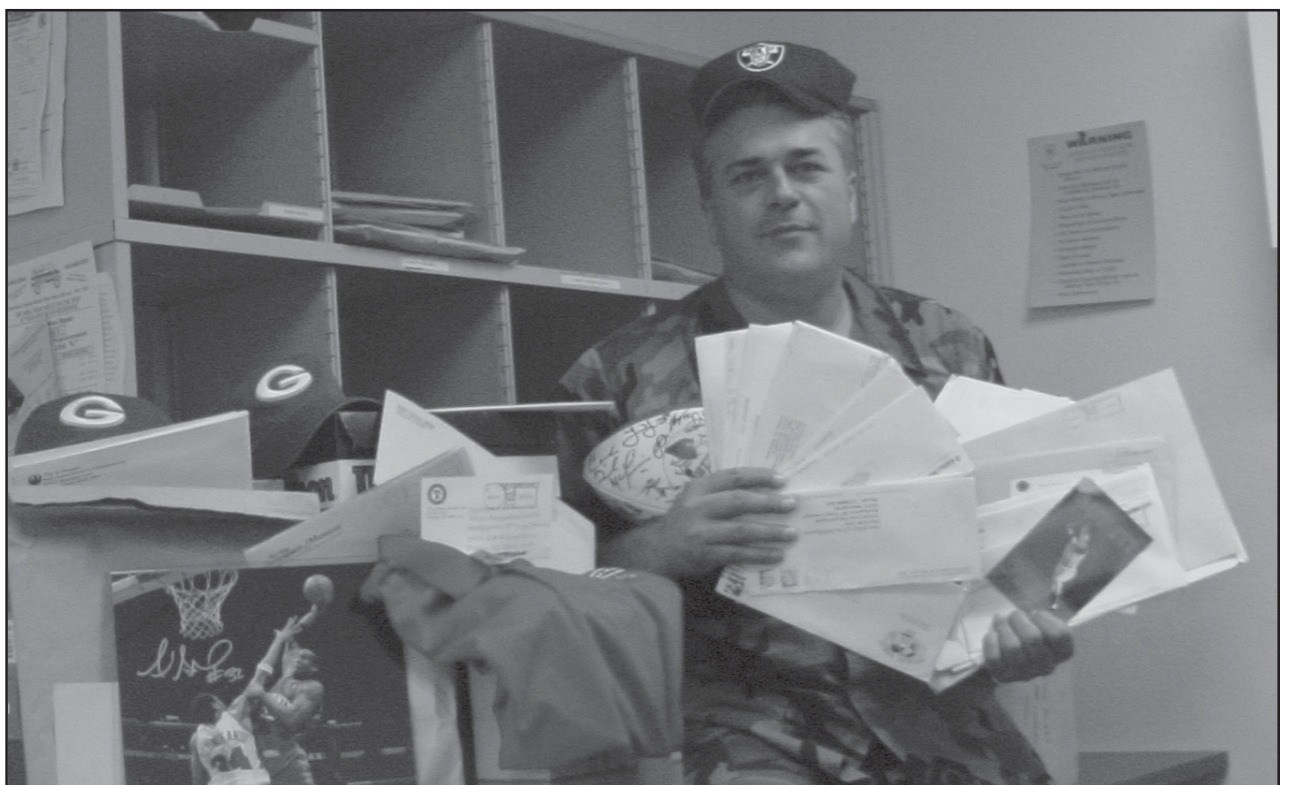
Staff Sgt. Jeffrey A. Cook, 98<sup>th</sup> Troop Command, has received over \$7600.00 in merchandise for his unit’s Family Support Group (FSG) raffle.

Cook sent requests for donations to various companies and athletic organizations. He had no idea what a great response he would get.

“I sent out 350 requests, hoping to get 35 replies,” says Cook. “I have already received over 100 replies resulting in thousands of dollars worth of prizes.”

The prizes range from tickets to sporting events, train rides, autographed sports memorabilia and gift certificates for entertainment all over Arizona. The grand prize is a San Diego vacation with airfare, hotel and local attractions like Lego Land.

Although the money was raised for a raffle, Cook has decided to auction some of the prizes using silent auctions. “I plan on auctioning off the prizes like the Arizona Cardinal football signed by the entire team and other high value prizes,” explained Cook.



**Staff Sgt. Jeffrey A. Cook, 981st Troop Command, shows off a portion of the donations he has received from various professional sports teams and companies. The donations are being raffled and the money used to support family support group activities in the brigade.**

The money raised from the silent auctions and raffles went to the Brigade FSG to throw a Christmas party for the soldiers of the 2222<sup>nd</sup> Transportation Company, the 855<sup>th</sup> MP Company, C/111<sup>th</sup> Medical Battalion and the 259<sup>th</sup> Engineer Detachment. All of these units were deployed in

support of operations Noble Eagle and/or Iraqi Freedom. “We wanted to do something for the families who were left behind,” says Cook.

For more information on the raffles, contact Cook at 602-267-2696.



# 2003 a Busy Year, at Home and Abroad

Now that the new year has arrived, we owe it to ourselves to take a few minutes to sit back and reflect on what we accomplished this past year. To say we were busy would be like saying July was a little warm. To be sure, last year was one for the record books.

As the year began we found twenty or our aviation maintenance personnel from Company D, 245<sup>th</sup> Aviation Battalion deployed to Fort Campbell and Hunter Army Airfield in support of the 160<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Aviation Regiment and their efforts in Afghanistan. By mid-summer most of the soldiers had returned home. These great aircraft mechanics made quite a name for themselves and represented the Arizona Army National Guard with distinction. Since then 40 more of their unit members, now called Detachment 1, D Company, 140<sup>th</sup> AVIM, have deployed to Afghanistan in direct support of the efforts there.

The new year also saw over 400 of our soldiers from the 1/180<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Battalion deployed to the two Air Force bases and the two Air National Guard bases here in the state. Their mission was to supplement the base security personnel in guarding these extremely valuable military assets. Without exception, the commanders of these bases were quite lavish in their praises of these fine soldiers. The most common comments focused on their professionalism and the serious manner in which they approached their duties. I can't tell you the number of times I came across members of the military community who said "It sure was great to see soldiers on the gates at the Air Force bases. It made me feel like the place really was secure." The duty must have been good because about seventy percent of the soldiers volunteered to stay on the mission for a second year.

Two other units deployed within the Continental United States. Our medical company, C/111<sup>th</sup> deployed to various locations through out the country to provide medical support at different military installations. Twelve of these soldiers remain on active duty. The 259<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company was activated to provide security at Fort Huachuca. They arrived back home just before Christmas having done

a great job down south.

The Arizona Army National Guard also had a large presence in Iraq. Seven units, consisting of over 800 soldiers, were deployed. Most remain in country as I write this article. The units that deployed were the 258<sup>th</sup> Rear Area Operations Center, 855<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company, 356<sup>th</sup> Signal Company, 1404<sup>th</sup> Transportation Company, 2220<sup>th</sup> Transportation Company, and Company G, 285<sup>th</sup> Aviation. These soldiers have performed magnificently. Seventeen of these soldiers have been recommended for, and many have received, the Purple Heart. Clearly, there is no such thing as rear area support troops any more. Today's battlefield encompasses the whole theater. About 160 of these soldiers have returned home as of the end of the year.

The 363<sup>rd</sup> Explosive Ordnance Detachment was activated in September, 2002 to back fill for the EOD team from Fort Irwin. Having spent one year performing that duty, the 363<sup>rd</sup> was extended on active duty for a second year. They currently are in Iraq, and will remain there for the foreseeable future.

Five more units have been mobilized for overseas duty. The 852<sup>nd</sup> Rear Area Operations Center, the 258<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company, the 257<sup>th</sup> Engineer Detachment, the 160<sup>th</sup> Finance Detachment and the 3666<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Company were all called to duty in the month of December. These units represent an additional 400 Arizona Army National Guard soldiers who will deploy in the early part of 2004.

Within the state we have responded to several Homeland Security missions, performed state active duty in support of fire fighting efforts and have prepared ourselves for any number of requirements that come our way in any given year.

With all this activity we still managed to take care of all our day-to-day business. This year we recruited 170 soldiers above the goal set for us by National Guard Bureau. We managed to move into the top quarter of all states in readiness. Our percentage of soldiers who are MOS qualified rose dramatically. Four new units, the 222<sup>nd</sup> Transportation

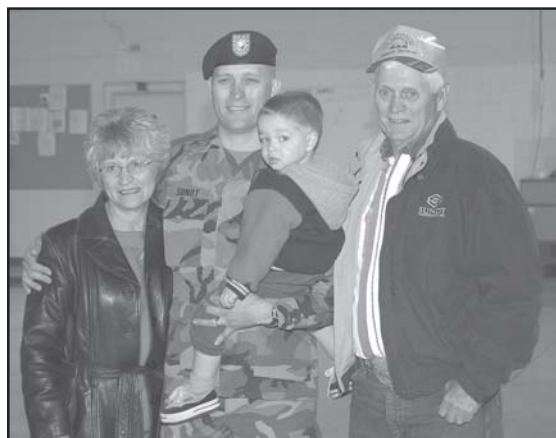


**Brig. Gen. Richard Maxon**

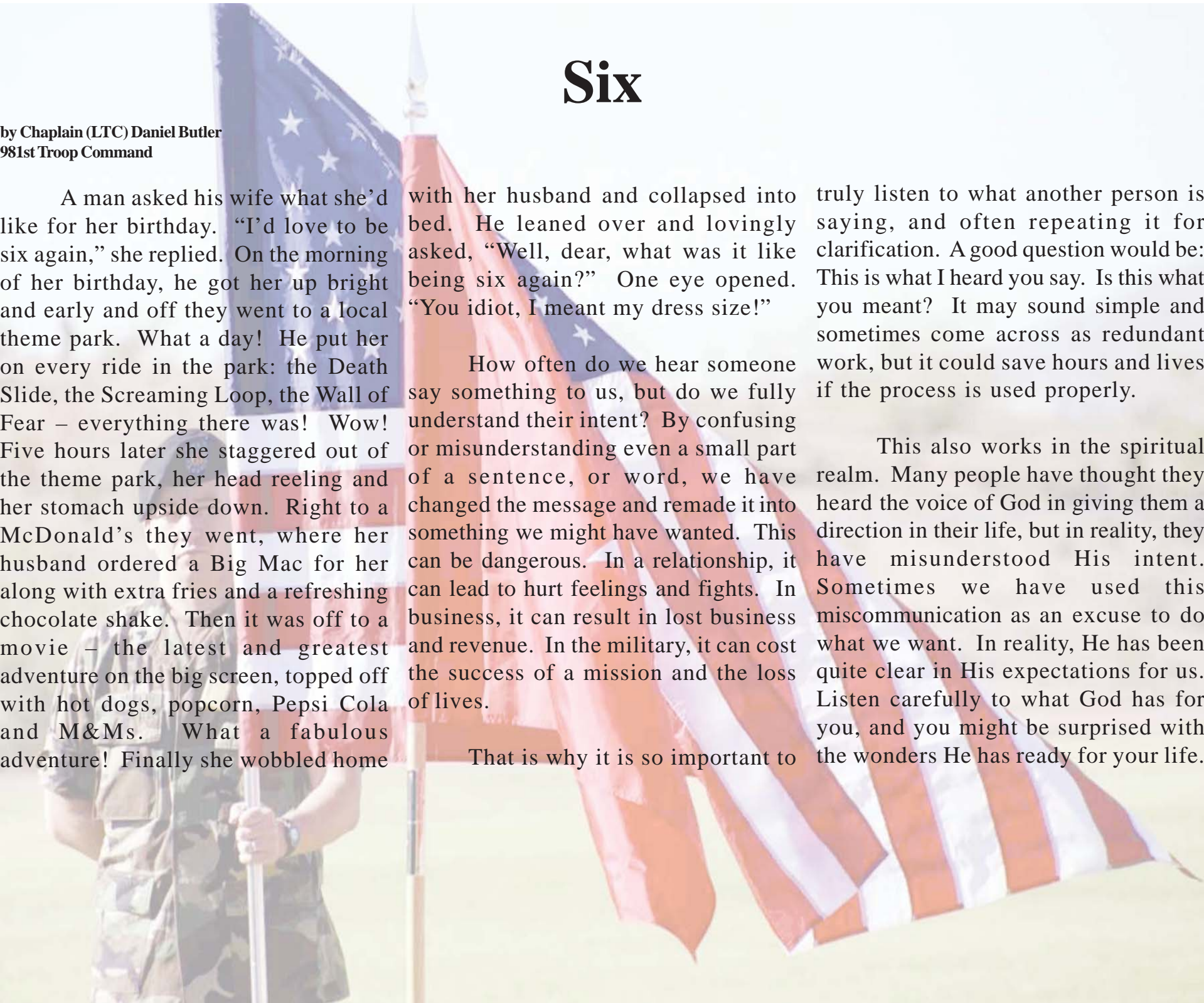
Company, the 177<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Company, the 362<sup>nd</sup> Explosive Ordnance Company and the 860<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company began filling their ranks. We became the first state to begin fielding the Longbow Apache helicopter. The list of accomplishments goes on.

On a sad note, we lost one of our great warriors this past summer. CSM David Ruelas died suddenly of a heart attack at Fort Meade, South Dakota while doing what he did best, training troops. Always one to speak his mind, on many occasions I found myself being "mentored" by CSM Ruelas. There were few instances when I didn't learn something important from our sessions. I will be forever grateful for having known and served with CSM Ruelas. Our organization is poorer since his loss but it is decidedly richer for having had him in our ranks. He is missed.

2003 was an extraordinary year to say the least. Every one of you did a tremendous job and I want to take this opportunity to thank you for all your efforts. You are great soldiers who are willing to do what has to be done to perform the mission. The citizens of Arizona are indeed fortunate to be served by you. This job is easy when I have wonderful professionals like you serving with me. Thank you for your service.







# Six

by Chaplain (LTC) Daniel Butler  
981st Troop Command

A man asked his wife what she'd like for her birthday. "I'd love to be six again," she replied. On the morning of her birthday, he got her up bright and early and off they went to a local theme park. What a day! He put her on every ride in the park: the Death Slide, the Screaming Loop, the Wall of Fear – everything there was! Wow! Five hours later she staggered out of the theme park, her head reeling and her stomach upside down. Right to a McDonald's they went, where her husband ordered a Big Mac for her along with extra fries and a refreshing chocolate shake. Then it was off to a movie – the latest and greatest adventure on the big screen, topped off with hot dogs, popcorn, Pepsi Cola and M&Ms. What a fabulous adventure! Finally she wobbled home

with her husband and collapsed into bed. He leaned over and lovingly asked, "Well, dear, what was it like being six again?" One eye opened. "You idiot, I meant my dress size!"

How often do we hear someone say something to us, but do we fully understand their intent? By confusing or misunderstanding even a small part of a sentence, or word, we have changed the message and remade it into something we might have wanted. This can be dangerous. In a relationship, it can lead to hurt feelings and fights. In business, it can result in lost business and revenue. In the military, it can cost the success of a mission and the loss of lives.

That is why it is so important to

truly listen to what another person is saying, and often repeating it for clarification. A good question would be: This is what I heard you say. Is this what you meant? It may sound simple and sometimes come across as redundant work, but it could save hours and lives if the process is used properly.

This also works in the spiritual realm. Many people have thought they heard the voice of God in giving them a direction in their life, but in reality, they have misunderstood His intent. Sometimes we have used this miscommunication as an excuse to do what we want. In reality, He has been quite clear in His expectations for us. Listen carefully to what God has for you, and you might be surprised with the wonders He has ready for your life.

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258th RAOC  
D Co, 245th Avn  
C Co, 111th ASMB  
259th Eng Co.

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1404th Trans Co.  
285th RAOC  
Det 1, D Co, 140th AVIM  
1/180th FA  
356th Sig Co.  
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